

I had the privilege of working with one of the greatest educators that I have ever met, Mrs. Virginia Wood. This past fall Mrs. Wood passed away. She taught in the Richmond School District for close to 50 years. I was able to work next to her for six years. During this time she taught me many things about life, science, and of course, teaching. Virginia, or Gini as her close friends called her, was not only a mentor to me, but a good friend. Even after she retired, she was always there for me whenever I needed assistance teaching Physics or Chemistry. Mrs. Wood was always available to students and spent a lot of her own money to buy supplies or knit gifts for her fellow teachers and students. She always made her close friends homemade fudge during the holidays. One of her first questions when we would report back to school was to ask how my wife and kids were doing. Mrs. Wood put others' health and well-being before her own. She loved her church, played the piano, and every summer went to see her family in Cheboygan.

Her one true love was Science Olympiad. I still recall the day that I was interviewed by her for the science position. She asked me if I was interested in assisting with the Science Olympiad team. I replied yes. The rest is history. Mrs. Wood would always be the first to register so that we would be team #1. She would pay the registration fees herself, never asking for money from the school even after she retired. The SO team received medals at our school awards ceremony that were purchased by her. After a couple of years of being the co-head coach, she handed the reins over to me. Mrs. Wood served on the Science Olympiad board and was very active in both state and national competitions. There are few people who are associated with Science Olympiad in the area and in the state of Michigan who do not know or have not heard of Mrs. Virginia Wood. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

— Brian Roodbeen, Richmond Schools



Virginia Wood

June 24, 1936–Sept. 15, 2011